

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting an analyte residing in a test sample, said method comprising:

i) providing a flow-through assay device comprising a porous membrane that is in fluid communication with detection probes and calibration probes, one or more of said detection probes being conjugated with a specific binding member for the analyte, wherein the assay device defines a scavenging zone and a detection zone, each of said zones containing a capture reagent for the analyte, said detection zone being located downstream from said scavenging zone, said assay device further defining a calibration zone containing a capture reagent for said detection probes or calibration probes;

ii) contacting said scavenging zone with the test sample so that a quantity of the analyte less than or equal to a predefined base quantity binds to said capture reagent at said scavenging zone;

iii) contacting said conjugated detection probes with the test sample; and

iv) allowing the test sample and said conjugated detection probes to flow to said detection zone so that said conjugated detection probes or complexes thereof bind to said capture reagent and generate a detection signal, ~~wherein the quantity of analyte in the test sample in excess of said predefined base quantity is proportional to the intensity of said detection signal;~~

v) allowing said detection probes and calibration probes to flow to said calibration zone so that said detection probes or calibration probes bind to said capture reagent and generate a calibration signal;

vi) comparing the intensity of the detection signal to the intensity of the calibration signal, the quantity of the analyte within the test sample in excess of said predefined base quantity being proportional to the intensity of the detection signal calibrated by the intensity of the calibration signal.

2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said capture reagent at said scavenging zone is selected from the group consisting of antigens, haptens, protein A or G, neutravidin, avidin, streptavidin, captavidin, antibodies, and complexes thereof.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said capture reagent at said scavenging zone includes an antibody.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the analyte includes an antigen.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said capture reagent at said detection zone is selected from the group consisting of antigens, haptens, protein A or G, neutravidin, avidin, streptavidin, captavidin, antibodies, and complexes thereof.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said capture reagents at said scavenging zone and said detection zone are substantially identical.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the test sample contacts said conjugated detection probes only after contacting said scavenging zone.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said assay device comprises a sampling pad that defines said scavenging zone.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said assay device further comprises a conjugate pad located downstream from said sampling pad, wherein said conjugated detection probes are applied to said conjugate pad.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detection probes comprise a substance selected from the group consisting of chromogens, catalysts, luminescent compounds, radioactive compounds, direct visual labels, liposomes, and combinations thereof.

13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said capture reagent is immobilized within said scavenging zone.

14. (Cancelled).

15-36 (Withdrawn).